



FROM OUR PASTORS



Rev. Fred A. Steinberg, Senior Pastor

CHRISTMAS 2024!

Get ready to deck the halls because the most wonderful time of the year is almost here! We are overjoyed to announce our Christmas celebrations that promise to fill your hearts with joy and the true spirit of the season.

- **Christmas Eve Services:** Join us for not one, but two special **Christmas Eve services** on December 24th at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. These cherished services will feature the angelic voices of our choir and the joyous sound of bells ringing in celebration. One of the highlights of the evening will be our candlelight rendition of Silent Night, a serene and moving moment as we come together to honor the birth of Baby Jesus. It's a time for peace, hope, and love that you won't want to miss. So gather your loved ones, invite your friends, and share in this beautiful tradition with us.
- **A Musical Extravaganza: Christmas Concert:** To set the holiday season in motion, mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 14th at 3:00 pm. It will be an afternoon filled with inspiring music from many of our talented groups, including our Chancel Choir, the lively Uncommon Grace praise band, and the festive ringing of bells. This concert is sure to uplift your spirit and add a musical sparkle to your Christmas celebrations.
- **A Season of Giving: Supporting the Genesis Project:** This year, we are proud to share that all offerings from our Christmas Eve services will be donated to the Genesis Project in Apache Junction. This dedicated ministry is on a mission to move to a new location and continue providing meals and resources to those in need. Currently serving over 250 lunches a day, their impact in our community is immeasurable, and with your help, we can support their goal of raising \$30,000 to ensure they continue this vital work. Many of our church members are involved in this outreach, so we know firsthand how meaningful these contributions will be.
- **A Special Drama: Christmas with C.S. Lewis:** Join us for an amazing evening as we spend Christmas eve with CS Lewis in his home near Oxford while he is hosting a group of Americans. You will experience an unforgettable night with actor David Payne with lots of laughter, joy and Christmas spirit on Friday, December 13th at 7:00 pm. in the Sanctuary. General Admission tickets are \$25 and reserved seats are \$40. This play is presented by Extreme Faith Productions.

Come one, come all, and let's make this Christmas a season to remember.

Celebrate with us, share in the joy, and give back to the community. We can't wait to see you on this special journey of faith, music, and love.

Grace and peace,

Fred

"...FOLLOWING JESUS... SERVING OTHERS"

Contact Us

6640 S. Kings Ranch Road
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
www.GoldCanyonUMC.org
Church Office 480.982.3776



Rev. David J. Harriss, Senior Pastor Designate

ALMOST... NOT YET!

*But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears? –Malachi 3:2*

This year, Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st, 2024. Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation. It is a season of almost, but not yet! In Advent, we wait for the Lord in two ways:

1. Since Christ's birth occurred over 2,000 years ago, we wait in an anticipation of commemorating this divine birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.
2. Since Christ has promised a 2nd Coming, we also wait on this arrival when Christ will come and cleanse the earth. Either way, Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord's presence.

My mother once told me, David, be careful what you wish for. It may come true! We have all heard this cliched statement before, haven't we? The scripture from Micah 3:1-4 is found during the second week of Advent, December 8th, 2024. Within this Scripture, Malachi, translated Mal' Iki (Hebrew), my messenger, is prophesying about a forthcoming presence of the Messiah. This scripture was created during the post-exilic period and the rebuilding of the Temple (516 BCE). Many prophets believed that a Messiah, an anointed one, would come into this world. The words of Isaiah (7:14, 9:6) and Micah (3:1, 5:2) prophesy that the Messiah would come into this world at some point in human history.

So, what would that look like? Would the appearance of the Messiah bring forth deliverance or judgment? Or, would this Messianic juxtaposition bring some of both? Were the people of Jerusalem ready for that presence? Are we ready to be in the presence of our Lord and Savior? The Scripture seems to expose both excitement and fear when the Messiah appears. As the prophet proclaims, "But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?" That is, this will be a day of deliverance and judgment? Are we ready? When the presence of the Lord appears, it will be a time of cleansing and refinement. One of my favorite quotes is that Christians are called to "afflict the comforted and comfort the afflicted." God's power in your life and in mine, is both comforting and disturbing. Anticipating the Lord's presence will be uplifting, and it will be alarming.



So, while we wait on the Lord's presence, we can spend some time this Advent season reflecting on our own spiritual journey. Are you and I in a place where we want to be as we await the Lord's presence in our lives? Have

CHRISTMAS
with
C.S. LEWIS
Starring
David Payne

Join us for an amazing evening as we spend Christmas eve with CS Lewis at his home near Oxford while he is hosting a group of Americans. You will experience an unforgettable night with actor David Payne with lots of laughter, joy and Christmas spirit.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024
HERE AT
GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

we emulated a deep Christ-centeredness toward one another? Have we allowed ourselves to be uncomfortable to do the Lord's work in this world? The prophet challenges you and me to be self-reflective and transparent before the Messiah's arrival. The scripture offers joyful expectation of the Messiah's presence and a warning that restoration will require a cleansing of humanity and the world. Are we ready?



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Pastor Katharine Keller

"...Growing disciples of Jesus Christ and living the Word."

CRAFTY CHRISTMAS



Be sure to save the date for Crafty Christmas scheduled for Sunday, December 8 from 1-3. If you would like to help out at a table where the craft is already planned out for you, we would love to have your name. For additional information or to sign-up, please email Pastor Katharine (ladiebug1214@gmail.com).

need to know if you wish to remain in your group, so please indicate that on the sign-up sheet.

Sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center, Education Building and in the Church Office. Please indicate whether you are interested in a group that meets for lunch or dinner, as well as your contact information. Please contact Dee Ashe (480)685-7175 or Pastor Katharine with any questions you many have.

PRAYER LABYRINTH

The labyrinth borrowed from First Gilbert UMC made an appearance for Pastor Katharine's Prayer Class in November.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



On Wed., December 11th, 2024 at 7:00pm we will be remembering those whom we've lost since last year's Remembrance Service on December 6, 2023. Please register the name(s) of your deceased to ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org by December 1st, 2024. Although email is preferred, if you do not have access to a computer, please call the Church Office (480)982-3776 and ask for our Office Manager.

DESERT DINERS RETURN!



Want to meet new friends and enjoy fellowship with other church members? Here's your opportunity! We are excited for a new season of Desert Diners beginning in January, where you can get to know your church family in an informal setting by sharing a meal together, either in your home or at a restaurant. If you haven't participated before, here's how it works;

A group of 6-8 names (couples will be placed together as well as singles) are randomly chosen to share a meal together once a month.

Host will provide the main course and guests will divide up who brings an appetizer, salad, dessert etc. If you choose to meet in a restaurant, the host will buy an appetizer or dessert.

Some Desert Diners that participated last year wish to stay with their group and that is wonderful. Some diners want to meet other church members and would like to join a new group. Either option is fine. We just

WOMEN'S RETREAT WRAP

Thirty-seven women worshipped, fellowshiped and learned together the first weekend of November at the Franciscan Retreat Center.





2024 Fall Women's Retreat—Franciscan Retreat Center



FAMILY FOCUS—THE CHIARAVALOTTI'S

This month we focus on the Chiaravalloti Family:

- Todd – Graphic Design Artist for Masterpieces Inc.
- Michele – Medical Laboratory Scientist/technical Coordinator (Banner)
- Wyatt – 6th Grade; interests – soccer and playing outside
- Abby – 3rd Grade; interests – soccer, dance, cheer, the arts

TRUSTING GOD!

In one of Pastor Fred's October sermons titled, "Surrender the Steering," he and his wife, Beth showed how one surrenders when she surrendered steering a tandem bicycle into the worship service.



Get involved!

Music Ministry

For more info contact Ian in the Church Office
or IClasse@GoldCanyonUMC.org

KIDS KORNER

A Sunday was spent with families from both the 9:30 and 11:00 services worshipping together at Church on the Mount at Goldfield Ghost Town, and having fellowship over lunch and fun activities!



STAY IN THE KNOW!

Scan to sign-up for Gold Canyon UMC communications via email!

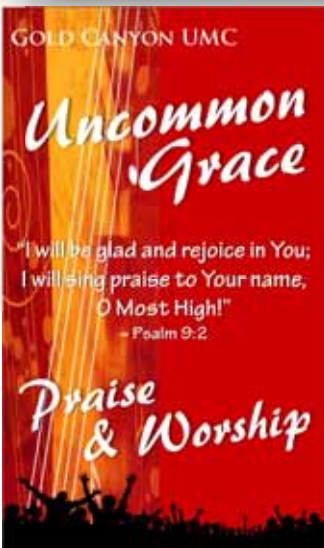


GOLD CANYON UMC

Uncommon Grace

"I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High!"
- Psalm 9:2

Praise & Worship



Sundays at 11am in the Koinonia Room!

Join us as we lift our hearts, souls and spirits... and you'll be sure to feel uplifted and energized when you leave!

Contact David...
(DCBallardsAZ@gmail.com)
...if you are interested in getting involved with the Praise or Country music teams!



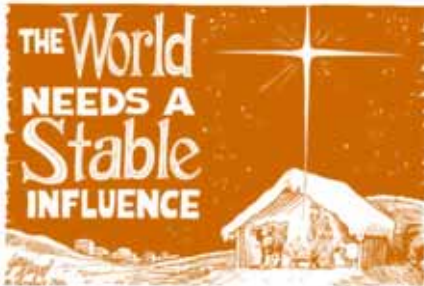
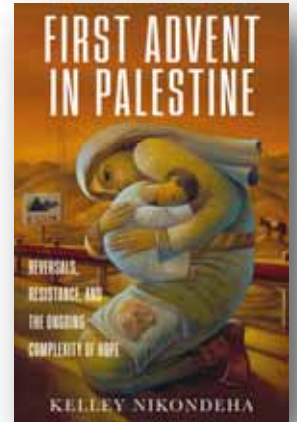


CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor



Is it me, or has this year passed quickly so that we are now in Advent? A season of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. A time when we await the arrival of God's presence in our world. As a part of my advent journey, I've chosen a book by Kelley Nikondeha: "First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope." It begins with a look at the Intertestamental Books of the Bible (the Apocrypha), which are not as familiar as the Old and New Testaments to most of us. During these 500+ years between the Old and the New, we find a lot of history that puts a much deeper meaning into Advent. It was during a time of great anguish for the Jewish people—a time of being conquered and greatly mistreated. Women and children were taken into slavery, and rebels were crucified. The second Temple was desecrated, the Eternal Flame was extinguished, bringing darkness and fear to the people of Israel, and there were great lamentations. One of the critical books is 1 and 2 Maccabees and Lamentations. It was a very dark time for the people of Israel, and it's at this time we find the Israelites looking for God's presence with them.



This same theme has been seen repeatedly throughout history, with the rise and fall of empires, wars, and the injustices we see even today. In this context, I enter this Advent Season, which isn't just this brief time of the year. It is instead a time that is more than just the 4 weeks we spend in remembering God's presence with us and is indeed the whole year of seeking God's presence with us. We are called to be instruments: the hands, feet, and voice of God with us. We are to root out the social justices that have divided us into the haves and have-nots. It's feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked, and caring for the oppressed throughout this community, state, nation, and world.

Our presence, our gifts, and our service support such programs. Programs like the Angel Tree Ministry, Genesis Project (as they rebuild in the new location), House of Refuge, Frontera de Cristo, the General Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR, and so many more. It's God's challenge to us, His call for us to do justice, walk humbly, love graciously, and, as Jesus said, "to Love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, body, soul and strength, as well as our neighbors as ourselves."

I hope you will join me in seeing this world through the eyes of people longing for the Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love of this Advent Season. It is a time when we prepare to receive God's presence with us in new ways. Advent is not simply a season; it's a call to action, an action that becomes our life's calling. It speaks to us through the presence of Mary, Joseph, and an infant child who becomes the Light of the World, dispersing the darkness that we see in the time of the Maccabees and this world today.

ANNUAL GCUMC CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Sat., 12/14 at 3:00pm
in the Sanctuary

Featuring music from our Chancel Choir,
 Canyon Carillon, Uncommon Grace & others!

Merry Christmas
 from our family to yours...

And the angel said to them,
 "Fear not, for behold, I bring
 you good news of great joy that
 will be for all the people. For
 unto you is born this day in the
 city of David a Savior, who is
 Christ the Lord.
 ~ Luke 2:10-11



YOUTH GROUP MINISTRY

Valerie Hammons, Youth Director

"...Growing disciples of Jesus Christ and living the Word."

KINDNESS — *in our world, community and within our own lives* — was our theme for October and November. We also had time to party for Halloween and to help out at the Gold Canyon UMC booth in Apache Junction!



May the Light of Christ fill your life with Hope, Joy, Peace and Love

We had lots of fun, games, prizes and food at our Halloween party.



We found another way to serve... Halloween Coffee Fellowship with the Youth!



Even the movie we attended for Youth Group had a kindness sign!



We all have a choice and the GCUMC Youth choose KINDNESS! Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our students and their families!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

On December 14th at 9:30 there will be a National Remembrance Day at Mountain view Funeral Home and Cemetery. Anyone who would like to sponsor a wreath can either go online at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/az0190p or mail Nancy Fassbender a check (Wreaths Across America, 4657 S. Desert Dawn Dr., Gold Canyon, 85118)or volunteer that day. The keynote speaker will be Major General Kerry Muehlenbeck and the Hugh O'connor Pipe band.

Sponsor a Wreath Today!



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

**National Remembrance Day
Community is Invited!**

**Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 9:30am
Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetery**

7900 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ 85207



Please scan the QR Code below to sponsor or to volunteer—you can also visit:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0190P

THANKS TO OUR 2024

Sponsors



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES
Post 9399 Auxiliary



AZ Hugh O'Conor
Memorial Pipe Band



Wreaths Across America
gives back \$5.00
or every wreath sold to support
local Veterans
in our community!

Make checks payable to
"Wreaths Across
America"
and mail to
4657 S. Desert Dawn Dr.
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118



Help the Military Order of the Purple Heart honor our local heroes!

Direct questions to Nancy Fassbender (520)280-4715 or nfass@earthlink.net



PASTORAL CARE

Our Pastors are on-call to reach out to members and friends of Gold Canyon UMC. If you know someone in our congregation who is hospitalized, ill at home, needs a listening ear and/or prayers of the community, please send an email to GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com, call the Church Office at (480) 982-3776, or contact one of the pastors directly so they can be included on the prayer list.



Rev. Fred A. Steinberg, Senior Pastor
RevStein78@gmail.com / (480) 982-3776

Rev. David J. Harriss, Senior Pastor Designate
DaviJon66@gmail.com / (520) 465-5415

Pastor Katharine Keller, Associate Pastor
LadieBug1214@gmail.com / (480) 888-5411

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor
GCapen@gmail.com / (919) 357-8474

Caring for others in the GCUMC fellowship of believers is shared by clergy & lay caregivers. In addition to the pastoral staff, trained Lay **Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs)** share a ministry of loving spiritual care: visits, prayer, Holy Communion, music, meals, errands and more. You are invited to join the **Congregational Care Ministry** by contacting the Church Office.



...please send prayer requests to
GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com
 or call the Church Office

In Remembrance

We honor the lives and memories of these members and friends, as well as their families and friends who have recently passed...

Joyce Lucia Arbuckle
 Iris Chase Dirks
 Morgan Jones

Ward Muller (ME)
 John Randolph
 Rich Wion

Thank you
 ...from **Beth Steinberg**

I attended the GCUMC Women's Retreat in November, and I wanted to say how much I enjoyed the retreat! Ladies, if you have not attended one of these retreats, I highly recommend going! The weekend was filled with great talks, spiritual growth, interesting discussions, singing, laughter, tears, fun activities, great food and snacks. Plus, you have the opportunity to meet other women and make new friends. Since this was my last women's retreat, Katharine Keller and Riechia Ralston planned a surprise party for me on Saturday night. Katharine made me a very creative candy bar story on poster boards, Riechia put together a video montage of my years here at GCUMC and the women wrote me cards. These surprises, along with the cards and notes I received, are memories I will treasure for the rest of my life.

I was deeply touched and wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I can't adequately express how much this all meant to me except that I cried myself to sleep that night after the party. Thank you to all the women at the retreat for the love you showed me and for making the retreat one I will never forget!

~ Love and Blessings, Beth Steinberg



CARING CORNER

Kim Shroyer

GREATER



This statement was recently published on livingchristian.org:

Does anyone else just wish that Jesus would walk into your kitchen, sit down with a cup of coffee, look at you and say “ok, here is what we are going to do”

In essence, when Jesus was born long ago amongst the stabled

animals, that’s exactly what became possible! His birth brought Him into our lives daily, everywhere, and gave us the blessing of having Him as our best friend. Our confidante. Our Savior. We are able to live in relationship with Him, talking to Him anytime we want. We can even hear His responses and guidance when we allow ourselves to be at peace, and stop, look and listen.

Unfortunately, just like the sermon series we began in November this year, we quite often fail to recall who has the steering wheel in our lives. The old saying “Jesus take the wheel!” gets thrown around a lot, but as a dear friend of mine says – “I have a bad habit of giving Him the wheel and turning around and taking it right back!” We all do it at times. And that seems to be when things are extra tough; those times when more than ever we should be giving up the wheel.

In the movie “Greater,” a man is having trouble understanding why he lost a loved one when he did. His mother put it simply – “We must trust there is someone greater who can see things from a higher perspective, our loss is great, but God is greater.” Simple to say, more complex to do, however. We take the wheel back because we are fearful, and why is that? We say we trust, yet our actions often don’t reflect it.

All the experiences of our lives up until now, no matter our age, supply the building blocks to how we respond to today. We just need to work to reflect on those experiences and identify what we learned from them,

making our faith journey a little more mature one day at a time. When I was somewhere between 8 and 10 years old, I was cast as an angel in the church Christmas play. I worked so hard to get it right. My lines were from the birth story, Luke 1:30-35. The night of the play I froze and flubbed my lines. I had them memorized perfectly but when it counted, under pressure, I couldn’t remember them. I was a devastated little girl.

But a few short days later, a lady our family didn’t even know, sent me a ceramic angel. An enclosed card said “to the prettiest angel in the Christmas play, it will be okay.” For decades I put that little angel in my nativity, until one year it shattered on the ceramic tile. Momentarily devastated again, for the past 20 years or so I smile extra wide when putting out my nativity. I think of that anonymous woman whose kindness cheered up a little girl. And I reflect on my lesson to not strive so hard for perfection that I forget to let Jesus have the wheel and guide me through.

God equips us with what we need each day, and the ultimate equipping came with the birth of Jesus Christ. As I once heard Rev. Harriss pray, “Dear Lord please step in front of us so that we don’t step in front of you,” let us remember that God is greater than anything we can imagine, in the good times and the bad. We mustn’t step in front of Him as He steers our lives. In other words, when things go wrong, don’t go with them!

Reducing our fear, and letting Jesus have that wheel sometimes isn’t as easy as it sounds. If you could use help in this arena, please reach out to one of GCUMC’s 4 Pastors, who are adept at listening! They minister to members and friends of Gold Canyon UMC. Please simply call the church office at 480-982-3776 and one of them will respond to your request. After hours, you may call or email one of the pastors directly. You will find their contact information in the bulletin on Sunday morning, (or emailed to you prior to Sunday worship), in the church office or the Pastoral and Congregational Care page of this newsletter.

“The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ~ Luke 1:30-31 (NRSV)



MUSIC NOTES

Dr. Ian Classe, Director of Music Ministries



The cool weather is here finally and Christmas is just a few short weeks away! I hope everyone has had a great year and will work together to make the next one even better. As we get into ‘the season’ when most of our musical activity occurs, there’s a lot on our calendar:

First of all, the Gold Canyon Arts Council will be presenting **The Swingles** on Sunday, December 1st at 7:00pm. A talented vocal ensemble originally formed in Paris, 1962, the Swingles became one of the 20th century’s most admired and beloved vocal groups. This second generation Swingles group will present a fabulous concert with a variety of songs, blending a classy style with natural ability and flair. The Swingles have earned five Grammy awards and multiple international accolades so they are sure to present an exciting performance. Tickets are available from goldcanyonarts.org/tickets, the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce, or Robin Rotella Team Realtors.

Next, on Saturday, December 14th at 3:00 p.m., GCUMC will open the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts Series with our **Annual Christmas Concert**. The concert will be available both in person and online, but I encourage you to come in person for a better acoustical and community experience. Seats are limited so be sure to arrive early (doors open 30 minutes before). Concert music this year will feature most of GCUMC’S performing groups from choir to bells to band as well as the Sonoran Brass Quintet, guest instrumentalists, and stunning soloists. The concert is free admission but a free-will offering will be received to support our music ministries and the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts Series as a whole. If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item for the GCUMC Food Bank as there are always those in need at Christmas. We hope to see you there!

The **“Sunday Sounds Series”** will be going on indefinite hiatus starting this month as the music ministry prepares for the Christmas Concert as well as the multiple Christmas Eve and Advent services. To hear some Christmas organ music, be sure to attend the annual Christmas concert as well as Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 6:00pm on December 24th. There will be a short, 10-15 minute hymn-sing featuring some of your favorite Christmas carols prior to each service, so arrive early to get a good seat and sing some of your favorites with family and friends.

The music ministry also has an exciting announcement we’d like to share with you. At the end of October, the Gold Canyon UMC Administrative Council approved a plan for our church to begin a **Choral Scholar Program** as part of our music ministry outreach. Since both music and mission are such important aspects of worship and service at Gold Canyon UMC, the music ministry aims to grow both music and mission through the introduction of a Choral Scholar Program. As part of this program, we will engage four students (one for each choir section) to join our traditional music ministry as choral scholars. We will pursue a mission to educate these young musicians, as well as provide them a chance to develop their skills in a supportive setting. In addition, we’ll pass on the traditions of sacred choral music to the next generation, in order to maintain a continuity that has lasted since the early church.

The four contracted college or university students will function as section leaders in our choir, helping to increase our overall musical ability and quality while also learning about the rich musical traditions of Methodism and the Christian church. We hope to provide a welcoming place to pass on the aforementioned traditions of sacred choral music, as well as to establish a Christian presence in young lives.

So, those of you reading may be thinking, “Okay, sounds great, I can’t wait to hear what that all sounds like.” Alas, it’s not that easy. We’ll need help from our generous congregation to make this program a

reality. GCUMC will offer each of the four successful scholar candidates (there will be an audition) a stipend for a full program year plus mileage if they meet specific requirements. If we can gather the necessary funding, we'll be trying out a pilot program in January that will be half the academic year (the spring semester) and with four scholars will cost approximately \$11,000 in total. If the pilot program is successful, we hope to later fund the program for the entire academic year. If you're interested in supporting this program, please make any donations to the church with the memo or notation 'Choral Scholars.' Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

We're hoping to move forward in the New Year with a number of projects and there will be more concerts to come, so stay tuned to the website, announcements, and newsletter. If you have any questions, reach out to Dr. Classe by phone, email, or in person. Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Peace and best regards,

Ian



2024-2025 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

11/22/24	Fri	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: The Gentlemen's Quartet...a Contemporary Classical Jazz quartet!
12/01/24	Sun	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: The Swingles...a vocal group from England!
12/14/24	Sat	3:00pm		23rd Annual GCUMC Christmas Concert...features our music ministries & more!
12/24/24	Sun	4:00pm		Christmas Eve Worship...Join us for worship w/ candlelight!
12/24/24	Sun	6:00pm		Christmas Eve Worship...Join us for worship w/ candlelight!
01/17/25	Fri	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass...New Orleans start!
01/26/25	Sun	2:00pm		The Rice Brothers...both are virtuoso pianists and cellists
01/27/25	Sat	9:00pm		GCAC Arts Festival...a much-anticipated community celebration!
02/02/25	Sun	2:00pm		Sam & Josh Stefanski...local talent bringing music from every decade!
02/14/25	Sun	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: Carion Woodwind Quintet...an ensemble from Denmark/Latvia!
02/21/25	Sun	6:00pm		Silent Film Gala w/ organist, Matt Gender...film with improvised accompaniment!
03/05/25	Wed	7:00pm		Ash Wednesday Worship...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
03/07/25	Sun	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: Mancini Centennial...big band playing song from Juke Box Age!
03/23/25	Wed	2pm		Nicole Pesce, Jazz Pianist...local talent playing blues, classical, jazz and more!
04/13/25	Sun	8 & 9:30am		Palm Sunday Worship...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/13/25	Sun	11:00am		Palm Sunday Praise Worship...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/13/25	Sun	4:00pm		Palm Sunday Gospel Worship...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/17/25	Thu	7:00pm		Maundy Thursday Worship...special service with communion and ashes
04/19/25	Fri	7:00pm		Good Friday Worship
04/20/25	Sun	6:00am		Easter Sunrise Worship...in north Parking Lot facing the Superstitions
04/20/25	Sun	8:00 & 9:30		Easter Celebration Worship...Christ is Risen with Brass, Bells and Choir
04/20/25	Sun	11am		Easter Praise Worship...Uncommon Grace leads our Praise of the Risen Lord
04/20/25	Sun	4pm		Easter Sunset Worship...our Gospel celebration of Christ Alive

* Indicates a ticketed event for a fee presented by the Gold Canyon Arts Council's Canyon Sounds Series. Inquires and/or ticket information can be received via phone (480)493-6731 or online at www.GoldCanyonArts.org. All other concerts are presented by the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church's Performing Arts Series and are open to the public at no charge as an offering will be received.

We ask that everyone please bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the GCUMC Food Bank — and is always in need of cereal, tuna, Ramen, Saltines and macaroni-n-cheese. Thank you for your patronage! -

6640 South Kings Ranch Road • Gold Canyon, AZ 85118 • (480)982-3776 • www.GoldCanyonUMC.org

Revised 10/8/2024



LOCAL MISSIONS & MINISTRIES

SCRIP BUS & VAN FUND



Your continued participation in the SCRIP programs at Bashas and Fry's grocery stores who support GCUMC's bus and van programs is

so appreciated! So far in 2024 SCRIP has raised over **\$2,225.03!** It's easy to do... just stop by (or call) the Church Office or visit the Welcome Desk on Sunday if you need help!

Bashas' When you shop at any Bashas' store for food or prescriptions and use their rechargeable card that was obtained here at the Welcome Center or the Church Office, GCUMC receives a 6% charity gift from Bashas'.

Go online to link your Fry's VIP Card to their Community Rewards program and choose GCUMC (A#TS438), and they will contribute 3% of your purchases to GCUMC!

FOOD BANK

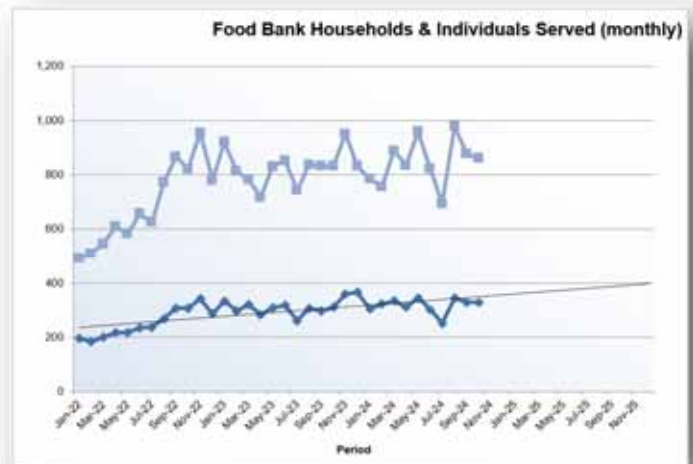


The Food Bank Manager and volunteers of the GCUMC Food Bank wish to extend our warmest wishes to all of you during this Christmas season! It has been a challenging year at the Food Bank with respect to keeping our inventory in line with the gradually increasing need for assistance. This was particularly true during the blistering hot summer when the population and food collection decreased (as always), but food insecurity seemed to (again) continue to increase for the many elderly individuals and especially families that remained behind.

We look forward to the upcoming concerts and events that will help us create an inventory for better sustaining the needs of our client base through the leaner months of 2025. Please consider dropping off canned goods, etc. when you attend the many scheduled events and church services. Of course, if it is more convenient, you can always drop off contributions at the back door of the Food Bank any Monday-Wednesday-Friday between 9am-12 noon. Everyone's contributions make a difference ... and are greatly appreciated!

If you or another church member you know has computer and people skills and would like to contribute to the functioning of the Food Bank (even remotely) please give us a call. We have an opportunity that will not involve any of the typical physical labor, but will make an enormous contribution.

As we end 2024, we want to let you know once again how thankful we are for your support of this mission. We hope some day soon we will be out of job but until then we are grateful for all you do to sustain our families. Blessings to you all and best wishes in the New Year!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Our Habitat for Humanity home site has a street address: 1317 E. St. Catherine Ave. in Phoenix, AZ! The start of construction for our home has been delayed due to a failed inspection on a sewer line that services our house and 4 others. That inspection is tied to a City permit for the house so we cannot do any building until repairs are made and the permit is issued. Accordingly there will be no construction this weekend, next week, or Saturday Nov. 16th. We hope to still do a weekday pre-build day to build window and door modules in advance of our first Saturday volunteer day. As of right now the timing for the pre-build day is unknown. As soon as we get the okay to start I will get the message out to everyone. Lunch providers will be put on a schedule when we are told we can start building.

To donate, please make checks payable to “Gold Canyon UMC” with “Habitat” specified in the memo. Please direct questions to Joe and Maureen Morton at moandjoem@aol.com / (602)284-2826. Thanks so much for your ongoing support of this ministry!

STITCHES UNLIMITED QUILTERS



In the true meaning of Christmas, the Stitches Unlimited group is spreading love and compassion to those in need by making holiday placemats for Meals on Wheels recipients. Volunteers bring food, companionship and the grace of God to people in need and we hope to add a bit of cheer.



Also, the SU group donated another 10 quilts last month to the memory care residents at Orchard Point, bringing our total to over 100 quilts donated this year. Many thanks to all who donate fabric, skills, time and love in this mission. May the joy of the Christmas season bring inner peace and love to all.

Matthew 25:40 ~ Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)



United Women in Faith

The December meeting program will be Racial Justice and we will be looking at the Charter for Racial Justice for

The United Women of Faith. Looking for ways we can incorporate these principles into our lives as Jesus would have us do. Our guest speaker will be Reverend Julius Keller. Reverend Keller will also officiate at the installation of our 2025 Officers.



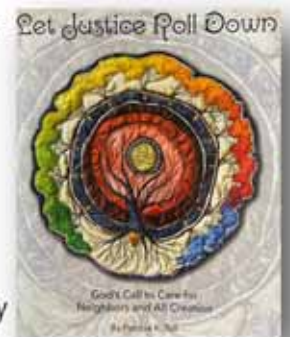
Come join us as we learn and grow in our faith and understanding. We will also meet and get ready to help our new officers. Fellowship begins at 10am and the program starts at 10:30am in the Missions Center on Saturday, December 21.

The Leavers written by Lisa Ko in the Social Action Group, was reviewed by Jane Hansgaard below:

One morning, Deming Guo's mother, Polly, an undocumented Chinese immigrant, goes to her job at a nail salon-and never comes home. No one can find any trace of her. With his mother gone, eleven-year-old Deming is left mystified and bereft. Eventually, he is adopted by a well-meaning white couple who move him from the Bronx to a small town upstate and rename him Daniel Wilkinson. Far from all he has ever known, Daniel struggles to reconcile his new life with his memories of his mother and the community he left behind. Told from the perspectives of both Daniel and Polly this author gives us a loving and selfish, determined and frightened story of a mother and son making their way in life. It is a moving story of how a boy comes into his own when everything he loves is taken away, and how a mother learns to live with the mistakes of the past. “I highly recommend this book,” Jane Hansgaard,

Upcoming Dates and Events:

- **Reading Program:** All women are welcome to join us **Wed., 12/4, 10am, Mission Center.** Contact Jane for more info hansgaard@msn.com.
- **Earth Smart Circle:** Interested in our earth and justice? Come to our planning meeting on 11/7 at 2pm in the Missions Center, Stephen's Room. Patricia K. Tull will be our guide for this video and text program “Let Justice Roll Down.” For more info, contact Rita (810)629.1240 or Joy (505)270.7085.
- **December General Meeting: Sat., 12/21, 10am** fellowship; 10:30am meeting/program, Missions Center. Installation of 2025 officers and Rev Julius Keller will present a program on Racial Justice.



For general info about United Women in Faith, contact Susan, susanblyons@gmail.com.



DECEMBER CALENDAR


(Calendar is subject to change;
For more info, please visit www.GoldCanyonUMC.org or call the Church Office)

Sun Dec 1	All day	First Sunday of Advent
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	GCAC CONCERT: Equipment Set-Up (S)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	12:10pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
	7pm	GCAC CONCERT: The Swingles (S)
Mon Dec 2	10am	ADVENT STUDY: An Unlikely Event (TBN)
Tue Dec 3	1pm	GriefShare (ER)
	10:30am	Stitches Unlimited Christmas Party (MC-B)
	6pm	MTG: Trustees (MC-B)
Wed Dec 4	10am	MTG: Superstition Astronomical League (MC-M)
	10am	UWF Reading Program (MC-B/Patio)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
Thu Dec 5	9am	Girls Matter Period (MC-B)
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
	7:30pm	Christmas Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Fri Dec 6	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	1pm	UWF Tea Prep (KR/K/ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sat Dec 7	10am	Dove Release (Patio)
	2pm	UMW Christmas Tea (KR/K/ER)
Sun Dec 8	5:30am	Last Day to Receive Angel Tree gifts
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	10:30am	Sunday Sound Series (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	12:10pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)
	1pm	Crafty Christmas (MC)
	2pm	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal (S)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)

MAIN CAMPUS	YR = Youth Rm
EB = Education Bldg.	
ER = Emmaus Rm	MISSIONS CENTER
K = Kitchen	MC-B = Barnabas
KR = Koinonia Rm	MC-E = Esther
MR = Music Rm	MC-M = Martha
NAR = Noah's Ark Rm	MC-S = Stephen
P = Patio	(Calendar is subject to change;
S = Sanctuary	For more info, visit
SoGR = Sea of Galilee Rm	www.GoldCanyonUMC.org
WR = Wesley Rm	or call the Church Office)

	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Dec 9	10am	ADVENT STUDY: An Unlikely Event (TBN)
	1pm	PEO Christmas Potluck (MC-B)
Tue Dec 10	9am	Gold Canyon Garden Club (MC-E)
	9am	Stitches Unlimited Quilters (MC-B&Patio)
	1pm	GriefShare (ER)
Wed Dec 11	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn)
	2:45pm	MTG: GCAC (MC-S)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	7pm	Remembrance Svc (S)
Thu Dec 12	9am	Lions Club Mtg (MC-M)
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
	7:30pm	Christmas Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Fri Dec 13	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	3pm	MTG: GCAC (MC-S)
	3:30pm	C.S. Lewis Drama Tech Set-Up (S)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
	7pm	PLAY: C.S. Lewis (S)
Sat Dec 14	8am	MTG: PEO (MC-B)
	3pm	23rd Annual GCUMC Christmas Concert (S)
Sun Dec 15	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF: Christmas Caroling (Offsite)
	12:10pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)

	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Dec 16	10am	ADVENT STUDY: An Unlikely Event (TBN)
Tue Dec 17	10am	MTG: UWFaith Leadership Team (MC-TBD)
Wed Dec 18	10am	MTG: Superstition Astronomical League (MC-M)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
Thu Dec 19	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
Fri Dec 20	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sat Dec 21	10am	MTG: UWFaith (MC-B/Zoom)
Sun Dec 22	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	12:10pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Dec 23	10am	ADVENT STUDY: An Unlikely Event (TBN)
Tue Dec 24	All day	Christmas Eve
	9am	Stitches Unlimited (MC-B)
	4pm	Christmas Eve Svc (S)
	6pm	Christmas Eve Svc (S)
Wed Dec 25	All day	Christmas Day (OFFICE CLOSED)
Thu Dec 26	All Day	OFFICE CLOSED
	9am	Girls Matter Period (MC-B)
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
	7:30pm	Christmas Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Fri Dec 27	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sun Dec 29	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	12:10pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Dec 30	-	-
Tue Dec 31	All day	New Year's Eve




MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It is time to order your Christmas Poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. We are pleased to offer a 3-plant floral quality poinsettia for only \$25.00 each. Please complete the Order Form below and include payment for each poinsettia ordered and:

- Make checks payable to "GCUMC", noting "Poinsettia" in the memo section.
- Please bring completed form with payment to the Welcome Center on Sunday or to the Church Office during the week.

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuaries for enjoyment during the holiday season. You may take yours home after the Christmas Eve services. A listing of those giving poinsettias will be in the January Roadrunner. Supply limited (36).

POINSETTIAS ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13th



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

I am ordering a poinsettia in Memory of:

I am ordering a poinsettia in Honor of:

Payment of \$25.00 for each is enclosed

TOTAL PLANTS: _____ TOTAL \$: _____

Please call the Church Office at (480)982-3776 with any questions.

Orders must be received by Friday, 12/13

ROADRUNNER & BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please send content for the

January 2024 Roadrunner

via email to ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

BY 8am on Monday, 12/11/24

Weekly Bulletin & Flower Orders

12pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday Service



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

*If your name is missing, or you find an error, please call the Church Office.
We truly don't mean to make mistakes or to leave anyone out!*

Happy Birthday!

Graham, Andie 12/01
 Scott, Peggy 12/01
 Kissner, Dale 12/02
 Roberson, Terry 12/02
 King, Kathleen (Kathy) 12/03
 Raffurty, Larry 12/03
 Blank, Lauren (Lori) 12/04
 Bermele, Sharolyn (Shari) 12/05
 Capen, Gary 12/05
 Rhine-Walker, Jennifer (Jen) 12/05
 Walsh, Judy 12/05
 Johnson, Carol 12/06
 Palmer, Charlie 12/06
 LeRoy, Randal (Randy) 12/07
 Miller, John 12/07
 Boldt, Kathy 12/08
 Hollingsworth, Carol 12/08
 Molzen, Geneva 12/09
 Robison, Marty 12/09
 Broz, Linda 12/10
 Brogren, Neil 12/11
 Classe, Ian 12/11
 Raffurty, Anita 12/11
 Graves, Samuel (Bob) 12/12
 Ritenour, Marcia 12/13
 Tabor, Gerald Lynn (Lynn) 12/13
 Houser, Ronald (Ron) 12/14
 Keller, Katharine 12/14
 Sisson, Anthony (Tony) 12/14
 Tabor, Ilene 12/14

Tucker, Paula 12/14
 Acevedo, Carol 12/15
 Twa, Mary Gay 12/15
 Jameson, Suzanne 12/16
 Pepin, Jeff 12/16
 Smith, Jeanine (Jeanie) 12/16
 Toole, John 12/16
 Hill, Nancy 12/17
 Kinder, Peggy 12/17
 Morton, Joseph (Joe) 12/17
 Hicklin, Kathy 12/18
 Nyfeler, Janet 12/18
 Serrine, Kathleen (Kathy) 12/18
 Walker, Robert (Rob) 12/18
 Hager, Diana 12/19
 Robertson, Judy 12/19
 Bolster, Patricia (Pat) 12/20
 Farnham, Pat 12/20
 McAuliffe, William 12/20
 Kirkpatrick, Georgia 12/22
 Jacobsen, Ken 12/23
 McAuliffe, Claudia 12/23
 Warth, Holly 12/24
 Brooks, Deborah 12/25
 Halsted, Vern (Butch) 12/25
 King, William (Bill) 12/25
 LeQuire, Steven (Steve) 12/25
 Miller, Christine (Chris) 12/25
 Gilbreath, Dawn 12/26
 Cartney, Kay 12/27
 Lambert, Lester (Les) 12/27
 Schenck, Joyce 12/27

Tonole, Don 12/27
 Parson, Barb 12/28
 Brendel, Don 12/29
 Schuler, Connie 12/29
 Barks, Niels 12/30
 Clise, Linda 12/30
 Waechter, William (Bill) 12/30
 Adams, Dalton 12/31
 Hosler, Gary 12/31
 Manbeck, Jerrilyn (Jerri) 12/31

Happy Anniversary!

Palmer, Charlie & Lori 12/01
 Nunn, Kevin & Hammond, Lynda 12/10
 Thomas, Mary & Bill 12/11
 Erickson, Todd & Tressa 12/13
 Linton, Diana & John 12/14
 Nefzer, Kathy & Rick 12/15
 Ingram, Pam & Bob 12/16
 Gibson, Dianna & James 12/19
 Davenport, Brian & Mary Ann 12/20
 Nuss, John & Kathy 12/20
 Carlozzi, Mid & Noreen 12/22
 Schuler, Connie & Phalen 12/23
 Hosler, Gary & Mary Lou 12/26
 Johnson, Leila & Richard 12/27
 Greenlee, Kay & Bill 12/29
 Lindaman, Carol & Don 12/29
 Gunn, Jim & Susan 12/30
 Brooks, Deborah & Mark 12/31

ACCESS ACS

Add/update your photo and contact info — and more using GCUMC's online directory, AccessACS! If you aren't using it, but would like to, email: ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

with "AccessACS" in the subject line and we'll send you login instructions. You can also view our Church Directory on your phone using the ChurchLife app (if you already have it) or through your phone's browser!



Sundays at 4pm in the Koinonia Room

Do you like to sing the old gospel hymns? Can you carry a tune? Consider singing at the Country Gospel Service. Contact David Ballard: 480-760-3277 or dcballardsaz@gmail.com



CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE

“Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another.”

- Romans 13:8 (NIV)

OCTOBER	2021			2022			2023			2024		
	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Bldg/FH Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Bldg/FH Fund	Worship All
	93266	23075	7087	85300	26639	5754	99187	16342	6525	69402	9456	4344

Please note when requesting IRA donations be sent directly to the church from your financial institution, please be sure to request they include your name either on the check or on the stub. We often receive checks with no identification and due to privacy laws, we are unable to ascertain who should be provided an acknowledgement.



To give to Gold Canyon UMC beyond your pledge to the General Budget or Building Fund, below are Wish List items that will better enable us to fulfill our mission as a church:

- Fellowship Hall (\$3 Million needed; \$1,614,108 raised)
- Organ Fund (\$225,058 raised)
- Pave Mission Center Parking Lot (\$200K needed; \$0 raised)
- Playground Shade Structure (\$55,243 needed; \$0 raised)
- Pave Mission Center Parking Lot (\$200,000 needed)
- Building Fund Loan (Paid off 2022)
- Stain Glass for upper Sanctuary windows (Completed 2022)



Electronic giving is a great way to make contributions, including recurring and additional/special gifts.

- ✚ **AccessACS:** Very easy to set-up/modify 1-time/recurring donations; Call Church Office for info.
- ✚ **eGiving:** www.GoldCanyonUMC.org and click “Make Donation” button. This link now takes you to AccessACS electronic giving, a secure site.
- ✚ **TEXT** your gift by sending “goldcanyonumc” to 73256 and follow screen instructions.



GIFTING YOUR HOME... ... is a practical way to reduce the size of one’s estate

- ... reduces taxes
- ... simplifies life for heirs and executor (personal rep)
- ... eliminates the hassle of having home on the market
- ... helps reduce the church’s debt
- ... can be done through a lifetime estate, allowing a person to continue living in the home.

CONTACT US

Senior Pastor	Rev. Fred A. Steinberg.....	RevStein78@gmail.com
Senior Pastor Designate.....	Rev. David J. Harriss	DaviJon66@gmail.com
Associate Pastor	Pastor Katharine Keller	Ladiebug1214@gmail.com
Associate Pastor	Rev. Gary Capen.....	GCapen3GCUMC@gmail.com
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Director, Audio/Visual.....	Chris Benjamin	BenjiDoesTheArt@gmail.com
Prayer Chain.....	GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com

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@goldcanyonUMC



GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6640 S Kings Ranch Road, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Phone: 480.982.3776

Fax: 480.671.0028

Email: ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

Web: www.GoldCanyonUMC.org

WORSHIP SERVICES (SUMMER SCHEDULE)

- ✝ 9:30am TRADITIONAL (*Sanctuary*)
- ✝ 11am PRAISE (*Koinonia Room*)
- ✝ 4pm GOSPEL (*Koinonia Room*)

(Childcare available at morning worship services)

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Children's Sunday School classes are held in the Education Building. Please bring your child(ren) to church with you, where they will be escorted to Sunday School, and you can pick them up after the church service.

- 9:30am Children Sunday School (*Educ Bldg*)
- 11am Children & Youth Sunday School (*Educ Bldg*)
- 12pm Youth Praise Band & Fellowship (*Educ Bldg*)

Addressee or Current Resident